

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application. Claim 23 is allowed. Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-2, 6-9, 12-14, 16-21 and 24-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sahouani et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0184862). Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sahouani et al. in view of Omar (U.S. Pat. No. 6,433,846). Claims 10-11 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sahouani et al. Claim 15 has been rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sahouani et al. in view of Nishikouji (U.S. Pat. No. 6,330,108).

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claim 23 and the Examiner's statement that claims 3 and 4 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Independent claims 1, 21, and 22 recite, among other things, an optical stack including an intrinsic polarizer lacking a heat and moisture resistant protective coating and a support layer thereon and an optically functional coating. Independent claim 24 recites a method of forming an optical stack, including providing an intrinsic polarizer lacking a heat and moisture resistant protective coating and a support layer thereon and disposing a first optically functional coating on a first surface of the intrinsic polarizer.

Independent claims 1, 21, 22 and 24 are patentable over Sahouani et al. because this reference, either alone or in combination with the other references cited by the Examiner in the Office action, does not show or suggest an optical stack having an intrinsic polarizer lacking a heat and moisture resistant protective coating and a support layer thereon and an optically functional coating.

Sahouani et al. does not disclose an intrinsic polarizer as recited in the claims of the present application. As the Examiner states on page 2 of the Office action, Sahouani et al. discloses a dichroic polarizer. The dichroic polarizer of Sahouani et al. is distinguishable from the intrinsic polarizer of the present invention.

The specification at paragraph [8] defines intrinsic polarizers as those polarizers that “polarize light due to the inherent chemical structure of the base material used to form the polarizer.” The polarizers disclosed by Sahouani et al. do not satisfy this description of intrinsic polarizers, and instead are dye-based polarizers.

The Examiner has indicated on page 6 of the Office action that claims 3 and 4 are allowable because the recited intrinsic polarizers in those claims are K-type and KE polarizers. K-type and KE polarizers are known intrinsic polarizers, and thus claims 1, 21, 22 and 24 should be allowable over Sahouani et al., either above or in combination with the other responses cited by the Examiner in the Office action, for the same reasons that claims 3 and 4 are allowable. The generic term “intrinsic polarizer” includes K-type and KE polarizers and any other polarizers which polarize light due to the inherent chemical structure of the base material used to form the polymer.

Dependent claims 2-20 and 25-27 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 21, 22 and 24, and thus contain all of the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend. Therefore, these dependent claims are patentable over Sahouani et al. and the other cited references, either alone or in combination, for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 21, 22 and 24.

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Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATE: April 18, 2006